



Whorouly Primary School

CHILD SAFE STANDARD 5

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.

Overview

This standard focuses on creating environments where all children and young people feel welcome.

Equity is a state of fairness in which all children and young people can participate freely and equally in areas of life, regardless of their background, characteristics or beliefs. This means their safety is not dependent on their socio-economic, family or personal circumstances.

Benefits of respecting equity and diverse needs

Children and young people have unique abilities, skills and life experiences. Differences in backgrounds, personality and beliefs shape a child's experiences and needs. Their individual identity and sense of self can be fundamental to their wellbeing.

Children have better opportunities to fulfil their potential when diversity is valued. Negative experiences like exclusion and discrimination can be harmful. They increase the risk of harm and abuse to a child and decrease the likelihood of them telling someone and receiving an effective response.

Upholding equity and respecting diverse needs are relevant in implementing all the Child Safe Standards.

Actions schools must take

As part of this standard, schools must:

- recognise and respond to students' diverse circumstances
- understand that some students are at higher risk of harm than others
- provide easy access to information
- adjust procedures to respond to different needs
- make sure complaints processes are child-friendly, culturally safe and easy to understand.
- pay particular attention to the needs of:
 - students with disability
 - students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - students who are unable to live at home
 - international students
 - lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) students
 - Aboriginal students and provide and promote a culturally safe environment for them.

Related documents and Policies:

- [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)
- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)